

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_26_0891

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 25/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0891

On 20/09/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Dear Gloucestershire Constabulary,

I am writing to raise concerns about the handling of Operation Snap submissions relating specifically to motorists close-passing cyclists and drivers using handheld mobile phones.

I appreciate that Operation Snap is operated locally and that there is no formal national benchmark for outcomes. However, it is still possible - and reasonable - to assess a force's approach by examining outcome rates, internal policy, and comparison with aggregated data from other forces obtained through Freedom of Information requests using equivalent wording.

From information published by other police forces, there appears to be significant variation in the proportion of Operation Snap submissions that result in enforcement action, particularly for close-pass incidents and mobile phone use. These offences are both well-defined in law, supported by NPCC guidance, and known to present a serious risk to vulnerable road users and the wider public.

Against that background, I would welcome clarification on:

The policy or guidance used when assessing Operation Snap submissions involving close passes and mobile phone use

The proportion of such submissions resulting in no further action, education, fixed penalties, or prosecution

How Gloucestershire's outcome profile compares, in broad terms, with aggregated data from other forces

What steps are taken to ensure that close-pass incidents meeting evidential thresholds are treated as road safety offences rather than matters of driver judgement

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds relevant information.

Following receipt of your request we have sourced the information to our specialist the information to our specialist team within the constabulary.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies, and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly, whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

Policy and guidance: Gloucestershire Constabulary make decisions in accordance with the DPP Guidance on Charging (6th Edition), the Code for Crown Prosecutors, charging standards, and relevant case law. All dashcam footage is examined by a police officer, who is responsible for determining whether the evidence shows that an offence has been committed.

2025

There were 272 submissions from cyclists, 16% of total submissions. Of the 272 cyclist submissions, 138 were reporting 'close pass'. Of the 138 reported 115 received either a conditional offer or advisory letter – about 83% - advisory letters 94, conditional offer 14 (9 undertook courses), 30 were NFA for different reasons, some had no footage/poor footage.

2026 YTD

There were 177 cyclist submissions, about 16% again but higher overall numbers this year. Of the 177 cyclist submissions 74 classified as 'close pass'. Of that number 46 advisory letters sent, 6 conditional offers, 22 NFA for various reasons.

2025 – 177 submissions related to mobile phones, of which 76 received a conditional offer.

2026 – 101 submissions so far, 49 conditional offers.

A conditional offer means the offer of an education course or fixed penalty, if an app doesn't choose one of those the case goes to court.

There is no offence in law of 'close pass'. Passing a cyclist too close can be used as evidence of careless driving but not sufficient on its own to reach the legal threshold for a prosecution.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the

response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post – Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary